

Submitter: Calli Ross

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1113

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Calli Ross, I live in Sherwood and I am a disability advocate, a parent, and a strong supporter of inclusive and equitable education in Oregon. I am here today to voice my strong support for SB 1113, which seeks to reform the use of restraint and seclusion in our schools. This bill is an essential step in protecting Oregon's most vulnerable students from harmful and unnecessary disciplinary practices.

As someone who has worked closely with families of children with disabilities, I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that restraint and seclusion can have—not just on students, but on entire families. These practices disproportionately target students with disabilities, often used in situations where de-escalation, communication, and proper training should be prioritized instead.

Restraint and seclusion are not educational tools. They are traumatic experiences that can cause long-term psychological and physical harm. Research has shown that these practices do not improve student behavior or outcomes but instead lead to increased anxiety, regression in learning, and a breakdown in trust between students and educators.

I urge this committee to prioritize the safety and dignity of students by supporting SB 1113. Oregon's schools must be places of learning, growth, and inclusion—not fear and trauma. Passing this bill will send a clear message that we value positive, evidence-based approaches to behavior management and that every child deserves to feel safe and supported in the classroom.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to making Oregon's schools safer and more just for all students. I respectfully urge your support of SB 1113.

Calli Ross